

1 TELECONFERENCING SYSTEM AND METHOD

2 ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

3 A teleconferencing system comprised of one or more telecommunication systems; two or
4 more subscriber terminals connected to the telecommunication systems; an electronic
5 computing means connected any telecommunication system of the teleconferencing
6 system. The electronic computing means, e.g. a server-type computer runs a conference
7 initiating program; and a means for providing an availability signal associated with each
8 subscriber terminal. The availability signal is accessible to the server and any participating
9 telecommunication system is capable of cooperating with program for initiating a
10 conference between the subscriber terminals; program initiates a conference between the
11 subscriber terminals by attempting transmission of a conference call when such call is
12 requested by any of the subscriber terminals; the conference call is transmitted to each
13 subscriber terminal as soon as its associated availability signal indicates availability of that
14 terminal.